Plague Germ Hunt Gives Playhouse New Thriller

By Jay Carmody

"Panic in the Streets" is a film title full of exciting implications showings of Burt Lancaster and Maryland countryside. The two— battered Winslow boy; June Dayand the picture which opened at the Playhouse last night before a Virginia Mayo in "The Flame and star and play-should give you ton as his suffragette sister, who distinguished invited audience lives up to most of them. It is a blend of suspense and violence built around the 48-hour

Irs. Fitch

touch that is one of its best

He is the central figure in an

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elements

battle of the United States Public health Service to forestall a pnumonic plague outbreak in a large city. It is the work of that master of melodrama, Elia Kazan, whose direction is expert if not invariably triumphant over the occasional cliches of the script.

Probably with a thought to the drama potential of bacteriological warfare, 20th Century-Fox has

"PANIC IN THE STREETS." a 20th Century-Fox release, produced by Sol C. Siegel, tury-Fox release, produ

warfare, 20th Century-Fox has treated "Panic in the Streets" as a significant picture. This is to say that it has in nowise stinted on production and has cast it Pat on production and has cast it Pat enticingly with a player group headed by Richard Widmark, Paul B Douglas and Barbara Bel Geddes. Sergt. Pheli Dr. Mackey

All this consideration has not produced a great picture in "Panic in the Streets" but it has resulted in a superior melodrama or peculiar timeliness. It also is one quite worthy of the invitational Mrs. Dubin Redfield premiere which ushered it into

The plague theme, accented in Hotel Proprietor Coast Guard Lieutenant the search for a pnumonic germ carrier in the underworld of a confined to this area, it runs well G. I. Joe"; 11:15 a.m., 1:15, 3:20, teeming city, is what lifts the above the conventional level of 5:25, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m. Playhouse film above the conven- excitement. It is when it lapses National - "The Gunfighter" wings through Kazan's picture resorts to an occasional exag- 8:15 and 10:00 p.m. with the insistence of a police geration for an unneeded emcause the director dares to take Kazan's previous film work. At the audience into his confidence such times, it is merely another before his exciting manhunt be- movie but there are not frequent Playhouse - "Panic in the

New Orleans provides the murk- entertainement qualities. ily exciting backdrop for "Panic alien is killed a few hours after the hard-boiled police captain and 12:45 a.m. discloses a veritable culture of formance which makes a nice Coronets"; 11:10 a.m., 1, 2,:50, pnumonic bacteria, Public Health match for the hero portrait by 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10 and 12 p.m. Officer Widmark orders the body Widmark. More memorable than and all the victim's effects burned, either, however, may well be the and all the victim's effects burned. either, however, may well be the With virtually every whit of acting of Walter Palance, a film 5:25, 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Sneak evidence thus desroyed, he takes newcomer whose sinister, evil face the case to the police department. may haunt your dreams for a Unless it can find the killers, not couple of nights. As the villain, as murderers but as carriers of assisted by Zero Mostel as an the pnumonic germ, a plague ably craven stooge. Valance gives epidemic is threatened within the "Panic in the Streets," a shivering

The pursuit of a deadly germ He is the central figure in an which could spread across the electrifying climax that Kazan country in a few days is a far has brought off with his most more gripping quest than the glittering directorial skill. screen has been dealing with

It is lead by two dramatically contrasting personalities. One of these in Widmark's intense Public Health officer; the other Douglas's cynical police captain who only half believes the disaster implications in the murder of a

The suspense of the film is concentrated largely in the character of the Public Health man played by Widmark. He is the figure in the story who knows the death and panic potential of the situation. He is a man working against the deadliest deadline possible who must convey a sense of panic to the audience without succumbing to it himself.

It is a tricky acting assignment that Widmark brings off effectively in spite of more than one suggestion that he could not have mannerisms his doctor-dectective

Kazan's cameras find little that is actually new in their excited dash along the New Orleans waterfront underworld. The pictorial effects, however, are almost invariably above the standard studies of sleazy streets, city morgues, tenement hiding places for smuggled aliens and their criminal importers. They convey the constant feeling that pnumonic germs at large here cannot possibly be isolated in time to prevent the inevitable plague. So long as the film's action is

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be presented at 9:00 p.m. only.

Where and When **Current Theater Attractions**

and Time of Showing Ambassador-"The Flame and the Arrow"; 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30

and 9:40 p.m. port"; 10:30 a.m., 1:10, 3:35, 6:20,

tional screen melodrama. Its terror into a few domestic asides and 11:15 a.m., 1:00, 2:50, 4:35, 6:25.

siren, the more impressively be- phasis that it falls short of 11:00 a.m., 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:50 p.m.

enough to vitiate its genuine Streets"; 9:30 a.m., 11:20, 1:15, air and ultimately turns out to be 3:20, 5:30, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m. in the Streets." Here a smuggled Douglas in the second role of 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:50, 9:35, 11:20 precisely the sort of thing you

Warner-"The Flame and the preview, 9:00 p.m.

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Winning Pair Features 'Winslow Boy' at Olney

By Harry MacArthur

Rattigan's warm-hearted work, a fine sense for both the comic reported to be one of the year's "The Winslow Boy," are the happy and the warmly appealing in the bright comedies. It will be shown combination the Olney Theater character. in conjunction with the regular has come up with to make this The Sneak preview picture will sending you away from the theater melee; William Whitman, as the

is a well-schooled cast going about son, Mary McNamee, Porter Van its business in a thoroughly cop- Zandt and Booth Colman. Capitol-"A Lady Without Pass- petent manner in an S. Syrjala Miss Dayton, incidentally, is 9 and 11:40 p.m. Stage shows: would be at home on Broadway. after being a member of the resi-12:15, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05 and 10:50 This is no unbridled enthusiasm dent company last season and has

Waldo Pitkin

Leo Zinser
Leo Zinser
Beverly C. Brown
William A. Dean
Waller Fowler, it
Rex Moad
Irvine Vidacovich
Val Winter
Wilson Bourg, ir
Mary Liswood
Aline Stevens
In Moore Mathews
Stanley J. Reyes
Darwin Greenfield
Emile Meyer
Herman Cottman
Al Theriot
Juan Villasana
Robert Dorsen

Columbia—"Duchess of Idaho";
spent; it's a set of bare facts.
You probably don't have to be told that "The Winslow Boy" is a first-rate dramatization of an actual cause celebre in Great
Britain unless you just arrived by flying saucer. It is the story of a father's fight, first to clear the name of his son, falsely accused of theft and forgery, and second to establish the right of an individual man to deal with his government on equal terms. Mr. Rata first-rate dramatization of an actual cause celebre in Great better try to see "The Winslow Britain unless you just arrived by Boy" this week. Metropolitan - "The Story of ernment on equal terms. Mr. Rattigan has made it humorous, touching and exciting by turns as Arthur Winslow takes up the cudgels for his son, Ronnie, and does not back down until he has made the Admiralty and the

Crown permit right to prevail. Mr. Rathbone plays Sir Robert Morton, the noted barrister who takes the case with a supercilious a great champion of individual Plaza — "Gigi"; 11 a.m., 12:45, rights in British law. It is not might expect of Mr. Rathbone, in stepping ashore. When his corpse gives a ruggedly realistic per- Trans-Lux-"Kind Hearts and the light of some of his more

AMUSEMENTS.

I sinister cinema portraits, but he Basil Rathbone and Terence plays Sir Robert excellently, with

Mr. Rathbone is supported most week brighter in the adjacent ably by David Cole, as the fatea thoroughly enjoyable evening, loses a prospective husband in the in the better spirits you are sup- brother who thinks Ronnie probposed to carry away from the the- ably did filch that postal order and a lot of fuss is being raised This is another of those straw- about nothing, and Colin Keithhat rarities, a winter-caliber pro- Johnson, the ailing father who duction which demands no favors sees his duty clearly and does it. and does not ask that you forgive Director Herbert Brodkin, Mr. it little things because this, after Rattigan and you have not been all, is the summer theater. Here let down, either, by Pamela Simp-

period London drawing room that making an Olney reappearance at the end of an evening well- the largest unorganized fan club George Ehmis John Schilleck Waldo Pitkin Columbia—"Duchess of Idaho"; spent; it's a set of bare facts. the largest unorganized fan club spent; it's a set of bare facts. You probably don't have to be parts. A very short exposure to told that "The Winslow Boy" is her will let you know why clearly.

All things considered, you'd

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